a

33. (New) An apparatus for processing cellulose pulps comprising in combination: a first refiner stage R1, R2 for preparing a pulp suspension, a screening stage S for separating shives from said pulp suspension, a first hydrocyclone stage C1, C2 including at least one hydrocyclone for separating fibers with low bonding ability from the pulp suspension, a second hydrocyclone stage D1, D2, D3 including at least one hydrocyclone for separating contaminants of high specific weight from the pulp suspension, and a second refiner stage RR for treating accepts from the second hydrocyclone stage and from the screening stage S.

REMARKS

The pending claim (i.e., claim 33) represents a claim that was canceled in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/600,109 (which is the "parent" application of the instant divisional application) as drawn to a nonelected invention in response to a restriction requirement in that parent application.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. Mottier, Reg. No. 30,874
One of the Attorneys for Applicant(s)

LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD. Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900

180 North Stetson

Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780 (312) 616-5600 (telephone)

(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: February 11, 2002